

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A process for treating a component selected from the group consisting of corn
5 and/or millet(s) and parts thereof comprising:
 - a) providing the component; and
 - b) contacting the component with at least one or more agent(s) selected from the group consisting of non-protein, non-amino acid, non-vitamin, organic sulfur containing compounds; thiosulfate; and sodium dithionite.
- 10 2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the agent is utilized in a liquid form.
3. The process according to claim 1 further comprising contacting the agent treated component with a solution.
4. The process according to claim 3 wherein the solution is selected from the group consisting of an aqueous solution, an organic solution, and mixtures thereof.
- 15 5. The process according to claim 4 wherein the solution comprises water.
6. The process according to claim 1 wherein the agent is a non-protein, non-amino acid, non-vitamin organic sulfur containing compound selected from the group consisting of thioglycolic acid, mercaptoethanol, bis(2-mercaptoethyl)sulfone, dithiothreitol, formamidinesulfinic acid, dithioerythritol, dimethyl sulfide,
20 thiourea, methyl mercaptan, 2-mercaptoethanesulfonic acid, 3-mercapto-1-propanol, 1-propanethiol, 2-propanethiol, thiolactic acid, thioglycerol, butyl mercaptan, benzenethiol, benzyl mercaptan, diethyldithiocarbamate, N-ethylmaleimide, thiocyanate, and mixtures thereof.
7. The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is dithiothreitol.
- 25 8. The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is mercaptoethanol.
9. The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is thioglycolic acid.
10. The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is dimethyl sulfide.
11. The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is bis(2-mercaptoethyl)sulfone.
- 30 12. The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is thiourea.
13. The process according to claim 6 wherein the agent is thiolactic acid.

14. The process according to claim 1 wherein the component is contacted with an amount of agent of at least 0.001 mole/kg component.
15. The process according to claim 1 wherein the component is contacted with an amount of agent of at least 0.001 mole/kg component to about 2 mole/kg component.
16. The process according to claim 1 wherein the component is contacted with the agent for a period of at least about 1 minute.
17. The process according to claim 1 wherein the component is contacted with the agent for a period of at least about 1 minute to about 72 hours.
18. A process for producing a starch product comprising using the treated component of claim 1.
19. A process for producing a fermentation feedstock comprising using the treated component of claim 1.
20. A process for using the treated component of claim 19 as a fermentation feedstock.
21. A fermentation feedstock produced according to claim 19.